

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 00919 010955Z
ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 SSC-01 SS-15 NSC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO AMEMBASSY BISSAU
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3063

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0919

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINE GV PU
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: GUINEA BISSAU, ALEXANDRE
NUNES CORREIA

1. ALEXANDRE NUNES CORREIA, WHO HAS BEEN AMBASSADOR
OF GUINEA BISSAU TO GUINEA SINCE FEB 74 AND SIMULTANEOUSLY
OF CAPE VERDE TO GUINEA SINCE LATE 1975 DEPARTED
CONAKRY 30 MAY TO ASSUME NEW POSITION AS SECRETARY
GENERAL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN BISSAU.

2. BORN 1943. HAS BEEN IN CONAKRY SINCE 9161,
INTERRUPTED BY EXTENDED PERIODS OF STUDY IN CZECHO-
SLOVAKIA (DEGREE IN AGRONOMY FROM PRAGUE UNIVERSITY)
AND IN CUBA. CORREIA WAS CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF AMILCAR
CABRAL AND SERVED AS MINISTER OF YOUTH IN PAIGC
GOVERNMENT IN EXILE. HE REPRESENTED PAIGC AT MANY
OVERSEAS MEETINGS.

3. CORREIA IS STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY MARXISM/LENINISM.
HE WAS INTIMATE WITH SOVIET, EAST GERMAN AND CUBAN
MISSIONS IN CONAKRY. HE IS MILITANTLY ANTI-IMPERIALIST,
AND ANTI-CAPITALIST, CRITICAL OF US FAILURE TO SUPPORT
PAIGC AGAINST PORTUGAL. CORREIA IS INTELLIGENT,
AN EXTROVERT OF PERSONAL CHARM, LIGHT TOUCH AND GOOD
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HUMOR WHO MIXED IN RELAXED FASHION WITH WESTERN
AMBASSADORS IN CONAKRY DESPITE HIS APPARENTLY FIRM
COMMITMENT TO SOVIET BLOC. HE HAS SUBTLETY AND GRACE,
IS WILLING TO DEBATE THE ISSUES ALTHOUGH FROM A
RATHER CLOSED POSITION. HE EXPRESSES GRATITUDE FOR
US AID TO GUINEA BISSAU AND PARTICULARLY TO CAPE
VERDE. CORREIA WAS FRANKLY CRITICAL OF "ABRUPT

REASSIGNMENT FIRST US AMBASSADOR TO BISSAU (MELISSA WELLS) AFTER ONLY A FEW MONTHS AT POST". HE FELT WELLS HAD MADE A FINE START IN BISSAU AND THAT HER WITHDRAWAL REVEALED INDIFFERENCE OF USG.

3. MRS. CORREIA IS A DENTIST TRAINED IN CUBA AND TANZANIA. THEY HAVE A NEW BABY. SHE SPEAKS ENGLISH WHILE CORREIA SPEAKS FLUENT FRENCH AND SPANISH AS WELL AS SOME ENGLISH IN ADDITION PORTUGUESE.

4. CORREIA IS REPORTEDLY CLOSER TO ARISTIDES PEREIRA THAN TO LUIS CABRAL. CORREIA'S ENERGY, CHARM, INTELLIGENCE AND YOUTH SUGGEST HE MAY HAVE SIGNIFICANT FUTURE AND THAT HE IS WELL WORTH CULTIVATING. HE HAS NEVER VISITED THE UNITED STATES AND SHOULD CERTAINLY BE ENCOURAGED TO DO SO AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. HIS PRESENT COMMITMENT TO RADICAL POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND TO SOVBLOC IS NOT NECESSARILY UNSHAKABLE.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

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